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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, 21 - 28 FEBRUARY 1953

[Comment: This report presents information, from Soviet
 newspapers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in eight
 of the union republics. Progress and statistical data are
 given on the following: crops, mechanization, and labor and
 organization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

The training of agricultural specialists in the USSR is progressing;
 93 agricultural vuzes and 474 tekhnikums are training agronomists, engineers,
 zootechnicians, improvement specialists, and workers for other occupations.
 There will be approximately twice as many graduates from institutions of
 higher learning in 1955 as there were in 1950.(1)

During the last 3 years, USSR agriculture received about 450,000 tractors
 in terms of 15-horsepower units, 140,000 combines, and about 200,000 trucks.(2)

Belorussian SSR

MTS and kolkhozes of the republic have at their disposal large numbers
 of machines for sowing, harvesting, and processing flax. Utilization of new
 land and available machinery will permit an increase of 40,000 hectares in
 1953 over 1952 in the area sown to flax and hemp.(3)

Ukrainian SSR

Winter wheat occupies about 50 percent of the sown area in Odesskaya
 Oblast. Kolkhozes of the oblast have resolved to obtain an average yield of
 120 pud per hectare in 1953.(4)

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Moldavian SSR

Sowing of tobacco seeds in hotbeds had begun by 25 February in the republic. The area devoted to tobacco is being increased by 3,000 hectares. Melovota, the local drought-resistant variety, is being widely sown.(5)

Armenian SSR

The sown area in kolkhozes of the Armenian SSR will be expanded considerably in the spring of 1953; the area devoted to grain crops alone will be increased by 20,000 hectares over 1952. The area devoted to cotton, tobacco, sugar beets, vegetables, cucurbits, and fodder crops will also be extended.

The increase in the area sown to grain will take place on newly utilized lands, particularly in the Sevan Basin and Leninakan Plateau regions.(1)

Azerbaijani SSR

By 20 February, kolkhozes in the lowland regions of Nagorno-Karabakhskaya Avtonomnaya Oblast had completed sowing oats. Many kolkhozes are sowing wheat and planting potatoes. The entire area devoted to spring grain is being sown with graded seed, by the crisscross method, and with tractor-drawn seeders.(6)

RSFSR

As of 20 February, percentage fulfillment of 1953 plans for various operations was as follows in Voronezhskaya and Tambovskaya oblasts (1):

<u>Operation</u>	<u>Voronezhskaya</u>	<u>Tambovskaya</u>
Grain and legume seed cleaned (percent of total on hand)	75	58
Manure hauled	10	18
Snow retention work completed (as of 1 February)	6	3
Capital and current tractor repair performed	78	71

MTS of the Groznenskaya Oblast Cotton-Growing Administration had completed tractor repair by 26 February.(7)

In 1952, average output per 15-horsepower tractor was 205 hectares of soft plowing in Kostromskaya Oblast, 307 hectares in Yaroslavskaya Oblast, and 470 hectares in Saratovskaya Oblast.(2)

Since the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the capacity of the tractor park in Mordovskaya ASSR has increased by 50 percent. In 1953, about 90 percent of all field work done by kolkhozes will be mechanized.(4)

Tadzhik SSR

By 21 February, kolkhozes of the republic had sown almost 1,500 hectares more seed flax than had been sown by the same date in 1952.(8)

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Kirgiz SSR

Because of warm weather, spring field work had begun by 20 February, earlier than usual, in southern Kirgizia. (9)

The 1952 - 1953 fall and winter tractor-repair plan has been completed a month early by all MTS of Talasskaya Oblast. Repair of combines is being completed. (10)

During the postwar period, the area sown to cotton in the republic has increased by 66 percent and yield by 60 percent. The 1952 gross cotton harvest was 2.5 times as great as before the war. Although the republic as a whole failed to fulfill the 1952 cotton procurement plan, the plan was fulfilled and high yields were obtained by 57 kolkhozes, 442 brigades, and 1,695 squads. (11)

SOURCES

1. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 25 Feb 53
2. Izvestiya, 28 Feb 53
3. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 27 Feb 53
4. Ibid., 28 Feb 53
5. Ibid., 26 Feb 53
6. Ibid., 21 Feb 53
7. Sovetskoye Khlopkovdstvo, 27 Feb 53
8. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 22 Feb 53
9. Sovkhoznyaya Gazeta, 21 Feb 53
10. Sotsialisticheskoye Zemledeliye, 21 Feb 53
11. Sovetskoye Khlopkovdstvo, 21 Feb 53

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